

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful examination of this application. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, and 10-20 are currently pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Entry of this Amendment and Request for Reconsideration is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 because the amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issues that would require further consideration and/or search as the amendment and arguments presented merely amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and (c) places the application in better form for an appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

(1) Claims 1-5, 7-8, and 10-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,533,145 to Shofner in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,394,591 to Jornot. Claim 1 is the independent claim.

To clarify the subject matter being claimed, claim 1 has been amended to recite that, “said electronic machine control device is adapted to *adjust* and optimize at least one of speed and friction parameters of at least one of the plurality of roll assemblies *in response to results of said electronic image evaluating* unit via said closed circuit.” (Emphasis added.)

The Applicants do not dispute that Shofner discloses “cameras 130 and 132, controller 140,

which includes readout electronics 162, and speed detector roller 168, which provides speed information through readout electronics to the computer system 144,” as stated by the Office Action in the Response to Amendment section. However, the Applicants disagree that Shofner discloses or suggests that “the electronic machine control device 140, uses these information from the electronic image evaluation processor received from the imaging device 130 and sensor to monitor and control [or adjust] the speed of the web,” as further stated by the Office Action.

The apparatus of Shofner simply does not use the information from the optical imaging units 130, 132, readout electronics 162, or rotary encoder 168 to control (or “adjust”) the speed of the web. To the contrary, Schofner expressly discloses that the computer system 144 uses the speed information from the rotary encoder 168 to calculate the *amount of time* for an impurity in the web to pass from one of the imaging units 130, 132 (which identifies the impurity) to a downstream nozzle 334 so that a short blast of air can be applied to the web by the nozzle at the appropriate time to expel the impurity from the web. Specifically, Shofner discloses that:

Since the speed of the web is constantly reported to the computer system 144 by the rotary encoder 168, the computer 144 calculates the time required for any particular segment of the web to pass from, for example, the first one of the stripes 150 to the row of nozzles 334. When an undesirable entity is identified by system 144, its position (spatial coordinates) is determined with respect to the thin web 134 (320 in FIG. 20), and the system 144 *calculates the time required* for the undesirable entity to reach the row of nozzles. [] *At the appropriate time*, when the entity arrives in the exclusion zone 350, a short burst of compressed air is applied to an appropriate one of a plurality of eductor feed pipes 355 by one of the fast acting solenoid valves 157. [] The combined air flow from the feed pipes 355 and the plenum 360 forms a blast of air that strikes and ejects the entity 356 out of the thin web 320, through the decelerating nozzle 336 (FIG. 20), and into a waste pipe 358.

(Shofner at 16:17-52 (emphasis added).)

In addition, the disclosure at column 8, lines 54-57 of Shofner (cited by the Office Action in support of the rejection) does not support the rejection of the Applicant's claims. Specifically, the cited passage states that:

The speed of the web 134 is constantly monitored by a speed detector, such as a rotary encoder 168, that provides speed information through readout electronics 162 to the computer system 144. This speed information is important so . . . that items of interest, such as trash, detected by the assembly 148 *may be tracked as to position downstream* in the web and excluded.

(Shofner at 8:54-57 (emphasis added).) This passage does not disclose or suggest controlling or adjusting the speed of the web, but rather, calculating the time for the impurity to travel from the camera that detects it to the downstream nozzle that will eject it. In fact, Shofner does not need to adjust the speed of the web, because it uses the position of the impurity relative to the downstream nozzle, in combination with the speed of the web, to determine the precise *time* that the nozzle should be activated to eject the impurity.

From the above, it is clear that Shofner does not disclose or suggest that "said electronic machine control device is adapted to *adjust* and optimize at least one of speed and friction parameters of at least one of the plurality of roll assemblies *in response to results of said electronic image evaluating* unit via said closed circuit," as recited by amended claim 1. Joriot also fails to disclose or suggest this claim feature, as apparently acknowledged by the Office Action in the Response to Amendment section. Therefore, independent claim 1 is patentable over any combination of Shofner and Joriot. Claims 2-5, 7-8, and 10-16 depend from claim 1, and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

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(2) Claims 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shofner in view of Jornot, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,394,591 to Jung et al. Claims 17-20 depend variously from claim 1, which, as demonstrated above, is patentable over any combination of Shofner and Jornot. Jung does not remedy the deficiencies of Shofner and Jornot. Therefore, claim 1, and its dependent claims 17-20, are patentable over any combination of Shofner, Jornot, and Jung.

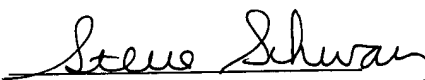
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this submission is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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